

WESTFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

3/6/04

Present: Ken Tebbetts, Jane Hinckley, Bob Oliphant, Roberta McGuire,

Stacey Perron

Guest: Bob Harmon

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM

Open Forum-

This meeting was called to discuss how a possible easement through Hill Orchard would impact the site of one of the first roads in Westford, and stone walls alongside of the site that still exist.

The group reviewed the location of Spaulding Road, and Hunt Road today, and how it laid out previously.

Presentation and Background-

This road was one of the first in Westford. It was called Salem Post Road, and was noted in the History of Chelmsford (of which a part became Westford) to be in existence in 1697. In 1917, the History Of Chelmsford notes that this road was no longer in existence.

The section that would be affected by the easement would have been a continuation of Hunt Road, through the orchard, leading to property owned today by Robert Daulton. This easement would be used as a driveway for one to three houses he is proposing to build.

Our Issues-

The first known road in Westford was constructed in 1663. Documentation exists placing Salem Post Road's construction somewhere between that time and 1697. Salem Post Road was part of a highway leading to Salem, Ma. which was a prospering seaport, at that time.

The stone walls that exist were probably constructed at the same time, and are very important to us.

We will send a letter to the Planning Board stating that we would like the site of the road to be preserved in it's historical context, to the greatest extent possible. We would recommend no paving, or overhead utilities.

We would recommend retaining, and restoring the stone walls, and marketing the site as an historical road. We recommend that if any digging is necessary, a archaeologist be present on site.

We would also recommend that the builder construct the homes so that the part of the old road that is on the builder's property could be donated to the town. This would then ensure that the site of the road from Chamberlain to Calista Dr. would be town property.

This letter will be sent to the Planning Board, the Town Planner, the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and the Town Manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey M. Perron
Secretary

